

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----101899 211433Z /14

O 211320Z JAN 78

FM USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT  
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE  
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USNATO IMMEDIATE  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
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AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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JERUSALEM FOR ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS:

SUBJECT: STATUS AND PROSPECTS FOR PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: SECTO 01045

1. FOLLOWING IS A REPORT ON THE SECRETARY'S THURSDAY MEETINGS IN JERUSALEM FOLLOWING EGYPTIAN DEPARTURE, MEETING WITH SADAT ON FRIDAY, TOGETHER WITH ASSESSMENT OF STATUS, PROSPECTS AND NEXT STEPS IN NEGOTIATION PROCESS. YOU MAY DRAW ON IT AS APPROPRIATE FOR BRIEFING HIGH LEVELS OF HOST GOVERNMENTS.

2. FOLLOWING DEPARTURE OF EGYPTIAN DELEGATION WEDNESDAY EVENING, SECRETARY MET THURSDAY WITH BEGIN AND DAYAN. THEY MADE SOME FURTHER PROGRESS IN REFINING LANGUAGE OF DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND NARROWING DIFFERENCES ON CRUCIAL PALESTINIAN ASPECTS OF DECLARATION, AND OF COURSE NONE OF THE DRAFTING DONE IN JERUSALEM HAS FORMAL APPROVAL OF EITHER GOVERNMENT.

3. IN CAIRO ON FRIDAY, SADAT EXPLAINED HIS CUMULATIVE DISILLUSIONMENT WITH ISRAELI APPROACH TO NEGOTIATION AND WITH ISRAELI PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF PRECEDING SEVERAL DAYS. SADAT WAS ESPECIALLY CONCERNED BY ISRAELI CONTINUED INSISTENCE ON RETAINING SETTLEMENTS UNDER ISRAELI PROTECTION IN OCCUPIED TERRITORY BECAUSE HE FEELS THEY PUT IN QUESTION WHETHER ISRAEL'S OFFER TO RETURN TO SINAI TO EGYPTIAN SOVEREIGNTY IS GENUINE. HE REPEATEDLY DECLARED, "THEY CANNOT TREAD ON OTHER PEOPLE'S LAND AND SOVEREIGNTY." HE MADE CLEAR HIS PURPOSE IS STILL COMPREHENSIVE PEACE AGREEMENT. HE IS PREPARED TO CONTINUE WORKING FOR A DECLARATION WHICH WILL GET ISRAELI ADHERENCE TO PRINCIPLES THAT WOULD PERMIT BROADENING OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. WE EXPLAINED PROGRESS MADE WEDNESDAY AND  
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THURSDAY WITH BEGIN AND DAYAN ON DRAFT DECLARATION. SADAT AGREES THERE SHOULD BE A RHETORICAL COOLING-OFF PERIOD, ALTHOUGH HE FEELS NEED TO SET RECORD STRAIGHT AS HE SEES IT IN SPEECH TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. HE IS READY TO GO FORWARD WITH SECURITY COMMITTEE MEETING, AND WE ARE URGING ISRAEL TO CONTINUE WITH THE WORK OF THAT COMMITTEE. HE HAS REITERATED THAT DOOR IS STILL OPEN FOR PEACE.

4. OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT, WHILE RECENT HIGH LEVEL OF HARSH RHETORIC AND INTERRUPTION OF JERUSALEM TALKS ARE UNFORTUNATE, DAMAGE IS NOT IRREPARABLE. WE BELIEVE PROGRESS CAN BE ACHIEVED IN FURTHER NARROWING GAPS ON DECLARATION LANGUAGE AND THAT MILITARY COMMITTEE COULD BE USEFUL IN GETTING PARTIES BACK INTO CONSTRUCTIVE NEGOTIATING ATMOSPHERE. AHERTON RETURNING TO JERUSALEM AND WILL REMAIN IN AREA TO ACT AS APPROPRIATE IN HELPING TO KEEP PEACE PROCESS GOING.

5. WE URGE THAT EVERYONE AVOID FURTHER AGGRAVATING SITUATION AND AVOID LIKEWISE PREMATURE JUDGMENT ON RESULTS OF THIS PHASE OF NEGOTIATIONS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARD BROADER NEGOTIATIONS AND TOWARD COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT.

6. FYI. THERE ARE NO REPEAT NO PLANS FOR PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL  
SUMMIT, CONTRARY TO PRESS REPORTS, NOR SPECIFIC PLANS FOR A RETURN  
VISIT BY SECRETARY AT THIS TIME. END FYI.

7. FOR AMBASSADORS WEST AND PICKERING ONLY: YOU MAY TELL FAHD  
AND HUSSEIN MORE SPECIFICALLY THAT SADAT DID EXPRESS ENCOURAGE-  
MENT AT PROGRESS MADE ON DRAFT DECLARATION IN JERUSALEM AND,  
WHILE HE STILL WANTED TO TALK FURTHER WITH HIS ADVISORS, HE IS  
PREPARED TO DISCUSS WITH US CONCRETE WAYS FOR BUILDING ON WORK  
ALREADY DONE SO AS TO REGAIN MOMENTUM. WE HAVE AGREED THAT WHAT-  
EVER IS TO BE DONE NEXT, IT SHOULD BE DONE THROUGH QUIET DIPLOMACY  
AT FIRST. THAT IS THE REAL REASON ATHERTON IS STAYING IN THE  
AREA, BUT WE DO NOT WANT TO CALL ATTENTION TO HIS ACTIVITIES.

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## Message Attributes

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